TINKLE
TALL TALES
NO.2
DEFECTIVE DETECTIVES
ONE TOON, ONE STORY, ONE-DERFULLY LONG
+ BONUS STORY

DEFECTIVE DETECTIVES

MADNESS AT MIDNIGHT

Story and Script
Shalini Srinivasan

Art
Abhijeet Kini

Letters
Prasad Sawant

THE MALTESE TERRIER

Story and Script
Shalini Srinivasan

Art
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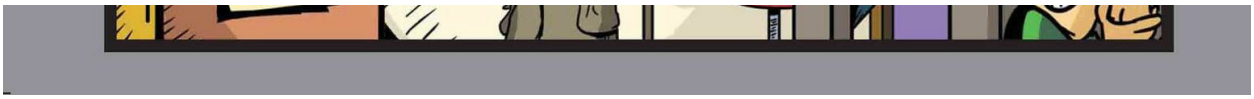


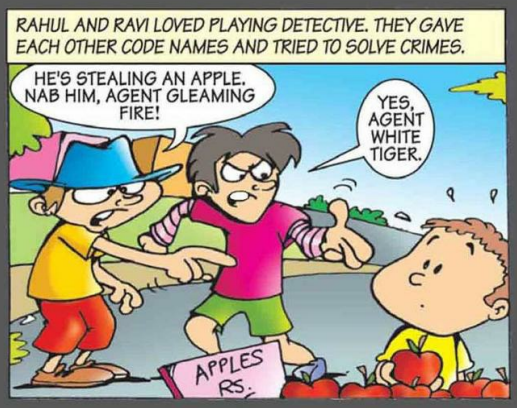
CAST OF CHARACTERS

RAVI AND RAHUL DELIGHT IN PLAYING DETECTIVE. THEY GIVE THEMSELVES PRETENTIOUS CODE NAMES LIKE AGENT QUICKSILVER, AGENT FIREBALL, ETC. AND SET OUT TO NAB LAWBREAKERS. THEY HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING CRIMES THAT REQUIRE THEIR ATTENTION. SOMETIMES THEY SEE CRIME WHERE NONE EXISTS, BUT OCCASIONALLY THEY DO STUMBLE ON TO THE REAL THING, AND THEN LUCK AND THEIR NATURAL CLUMSINESS SEE THEM THROUGH.

RAVI'S YOUNGER SISTER, SAM (SAMHITA) WHO ALSO WANTS TO BE A CRIME FIGHTER, IS ALWAYS SNOOPING AROUND TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT THE BOYS ARE UP TO AND MUCH TO HER BROTHER'S ANNOYANCE OFTEN UPSTAGES THEM.

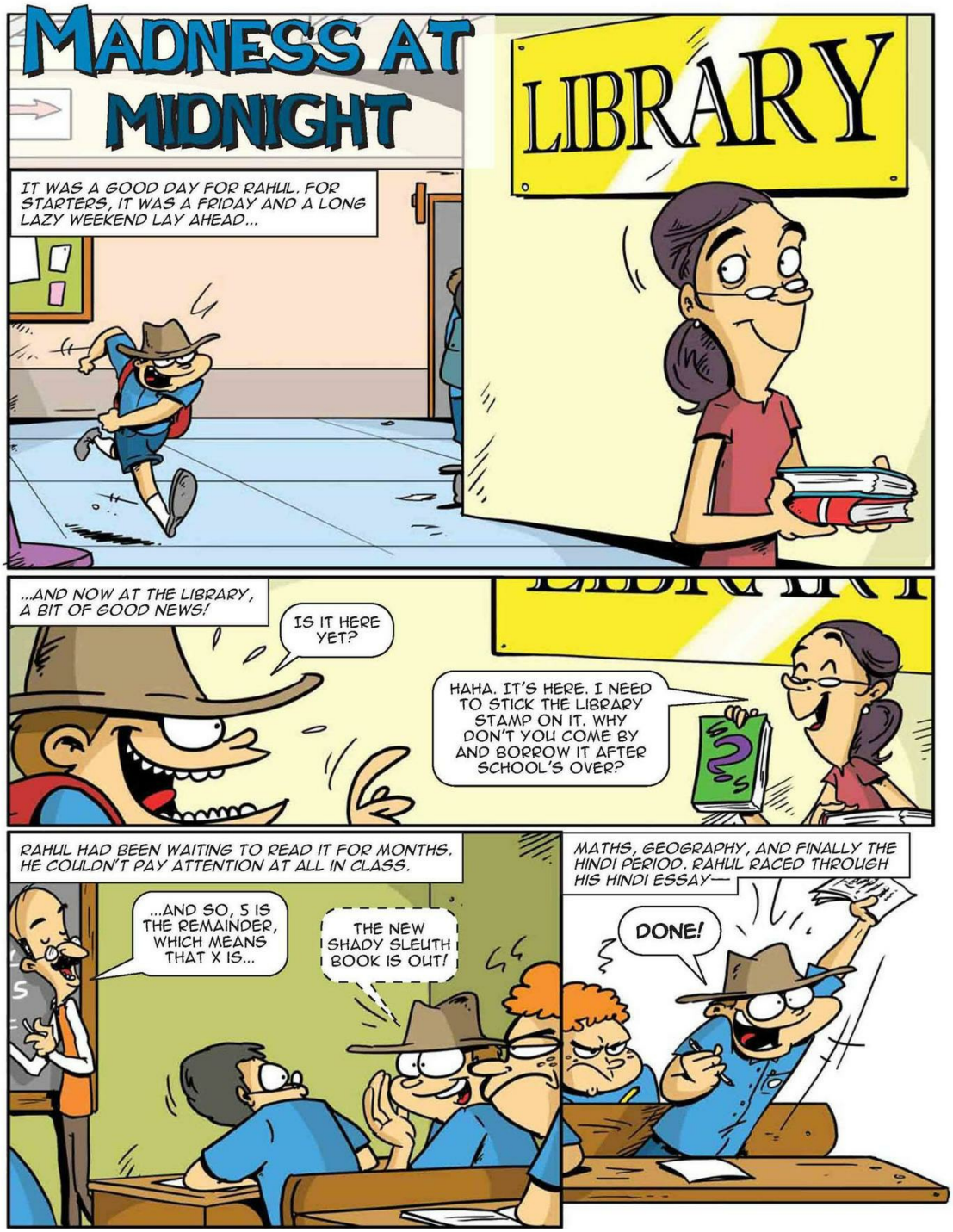
THE DEFECTIVE DETECTIVES SERIES WAS BORN OUT OF A STORY SENT BY THEN *TINKLE* READER, ANISHA HARIHARAN (NOW KARTHICK). AFTER THE FIRST STORY APPEARED IN *TINKLE* IN AUGUST 2006, THE EDITORS DECIDED TO CONTINUE WITH THE ADVENTURES OF THE BUMBLING DUO. ONE OF THE EDITORS WROTE THE SECOND STORY AND THE SERIES WAS KEPT GOING BY STAFF WRITERS THEREAFTER. ALL IMAGES OF THE VARIOUS CHARACTERS IN THE COMIC HAVE BEEN CREATED BY ABHIJEET KINI WHO CONTINUES TO ILLUSTRATE THE SERIES.

ANISHA, THE ORIGINAL WRITER, EVENTUALLY JOINED THE *TINKLE* TEAM.



Defective Detectives **made its debut in *Tinkle* 526. Ravi and Rahul looked a lot different from what they do now!**

Sam made her first appearance in the third story 'I Spy' by Rajani Thindiath.


MADNESS AT MIDNIGHT
LIBRARY
IT WAS A GOOD DAY FOR RAHUL. FOR STARTERS, IT WAS A FRIDAY AND A LONG LAZY WEEKEND LAY AHEAD...
...AND NOW AT THE LIBRARY, A BIT OF GOOD NEWS!
IS IT HERE YET?
HAHA. IT'S HERE. I NEED TO STICK THE LIBRARY STAMP ON IT. WHY DON'T YOU COME BY AND BORROW IT AFTER SCHOOL'S OVER?
RAHUL HAD BEEN WAITING TO READ IT FOR MONTHS. HE COULDN'T PAY ATTENTION AT ALL IN CLASS.
...AND SO, 5 IS THE REMAINDER, WHICH MEANS THAT X IS...
THE NEW SHADY SLEUTH BOOK IS OUT!
MATHS, GEOGRAPHY, AND FINALLY THE HINDI PERIOD. RAHUL RACED THROUGH HIS HINDI ESSAY—
DONE!

FINISHED!
AND I'M OFF!
SHADY SLEUTH, HERE I COME!
LIBRAI
Keep Silence
WHAT IF SOMEONE ELSE HAS BORROWED IT ALREADY?
ER... CAN I HAVE THE BOOK?
LIBRARIAN

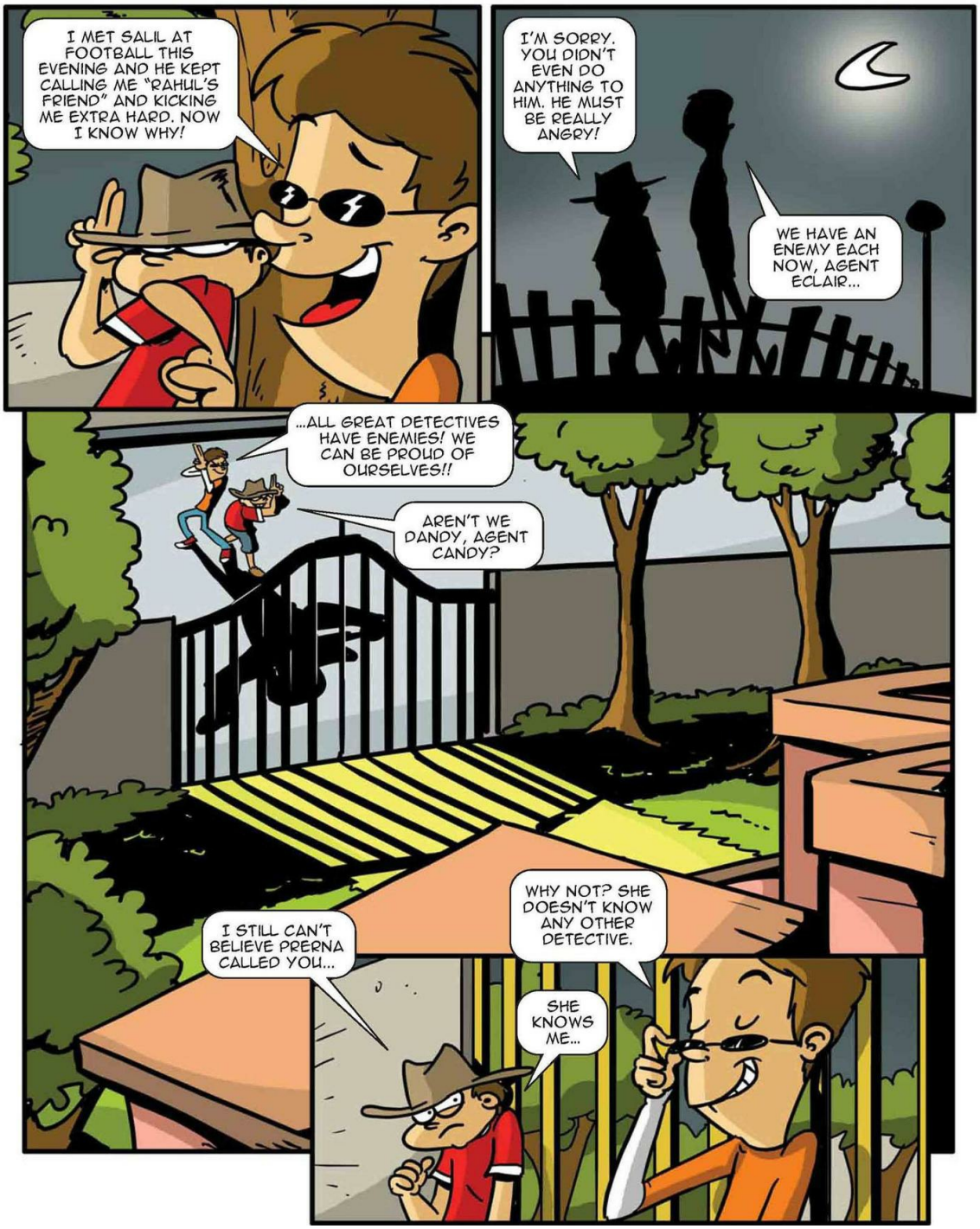
HERE YOU ARE!
THANKS!
SHADY SLEUTH
AT LAST! I CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE ACTUALLY GOT IT! SOME PEOPLE I KNOW ARE GOING TO GRIND THEIR TEETH IN FRUSTRATION!
AS IF ON CUE, HIS GROUCHY CLASSMATE SALIL APPEARED IN THE CORRIDOR, OUTSIDE THE LIBRARY.
GOING INTO THE LIBRARY, SALIL?
YES!
THERE'S A NEW SHADY SLEUTH BOOK YOU KNOW.
I KNOW! I WANT TO BORROW IT!
TOO LATE, BUDDY! TOO LATE!!!
OH, NO!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, SALIL, BUT I THINK I'M GOING TO HAVE AN EXCITING WEEKEND!!
SMARTY-PANTS!

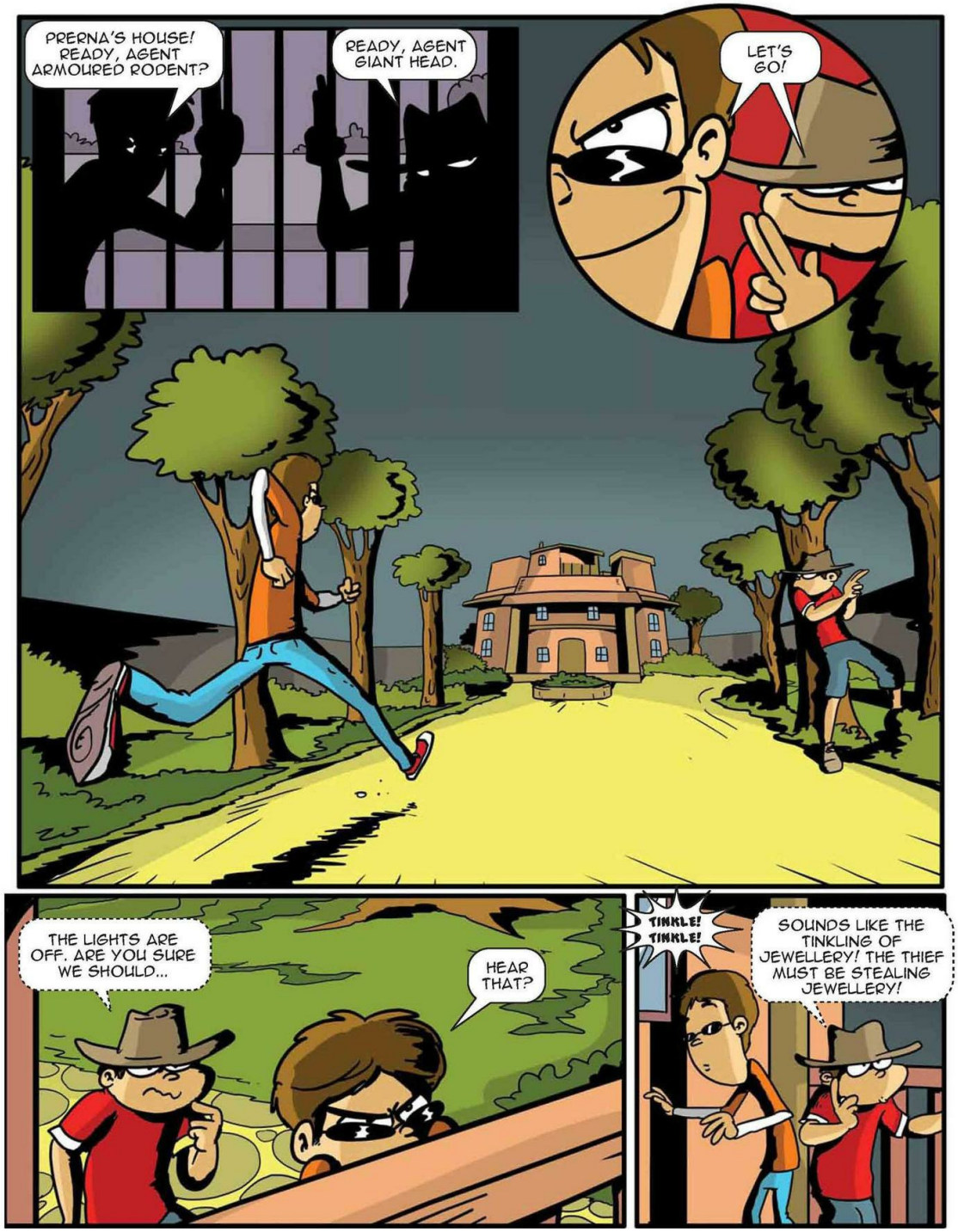
EAGER TO START READING, RAHUL HURRIED THROUGH DINNER...
YOU HARDLY ATE ANYTHING!
EATING A LITTLE LESS ONE DAY ISN'T GOING TO HURT THE BOY.
I HAD ENOUGH, MA! I'M GOING TO BED!
AND SOON—
WHAT A THRILLING START... EXACTLY HOW I WOULD'VE CORNERED THE SUSPECTS!
TREMBLE, YOU RATS... AGENT ARMADILLO IS HERE!!!
SLOSH!
WAKE UP, RAHUL!

WAKE UP!
RAVI, YOU!
SHHH! QUIET!! AGENT ARMADILLO!!!
IT WAS A DREAM, OKAY? I DOZED OFF...
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN! PINTO UNCLE'S HOUSE IS BEING ROBBED! THE DEBONAIR DUO MUST GO FORTH.
THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

ON THE DOUBLE, AGENT TROUBLE!
DITTO, AGENT ARMADILLO!
ALL CLEAR! COME ON!!
HOW DID YOU KNOW PINTO UNCLE'S HOUSE IS BEING ROBBED?

ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR RAHUL. HIS DAUGHTER, PRERNA, CALLED AND ASKED US TO HELP.
PRERNA CALLED YOU? DIDN'T YOU SPILL INK ALL OVER HER IN SCHOOL? LAST WEEK? IN MATHS CLASS? DOESN'T SHE HATE YOU ALMOST AS MUCH AS SALIL HATES ME?
WHY DOES SALIL HATE YOU?
I GOT THE NEW SHADY SLEUTH BOOK FROM THE SCHOOL LIBRARY FIRST. YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE LOOK HE GAVE ME WHEN HE SAW ME WITH IT!
NEXT TREE!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

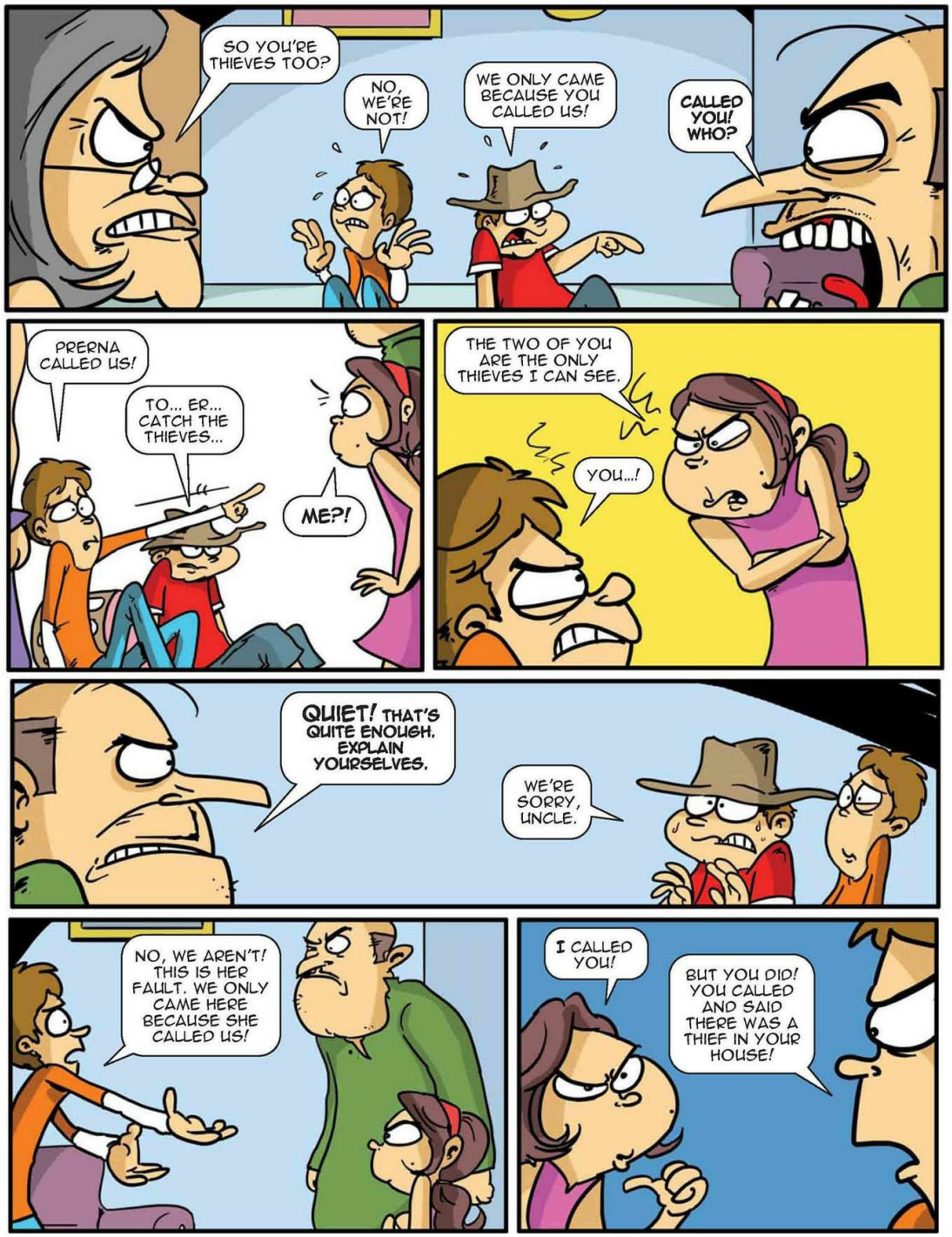

I MET SALIL AT FOOTBALL THIS EVENING AND HE KEPT CALLING ME "RAHUL'S FRIEND" AND KICKING ME EXTRA HARD. NOW I KNOW WHY!
I'M SORRY. YOU DIDN'T EVEN DO ANYTHING TO HIM. HE MUST BE REALLY ANGRY!
WE HAVE AN ENEMY EACH NOW, AGENT ECLAIR...
...ALL GREAT DETECTIVES HAVE ENEMIES! WE CAN BE PROUD OF OURSELVES!!
AREN'T WE DANDY, AGENT CANDY?
WHY NOT? SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANY OTHER DETECTIVE.
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE PRERNA CALLED YOU...
SHE KNOWS ME...

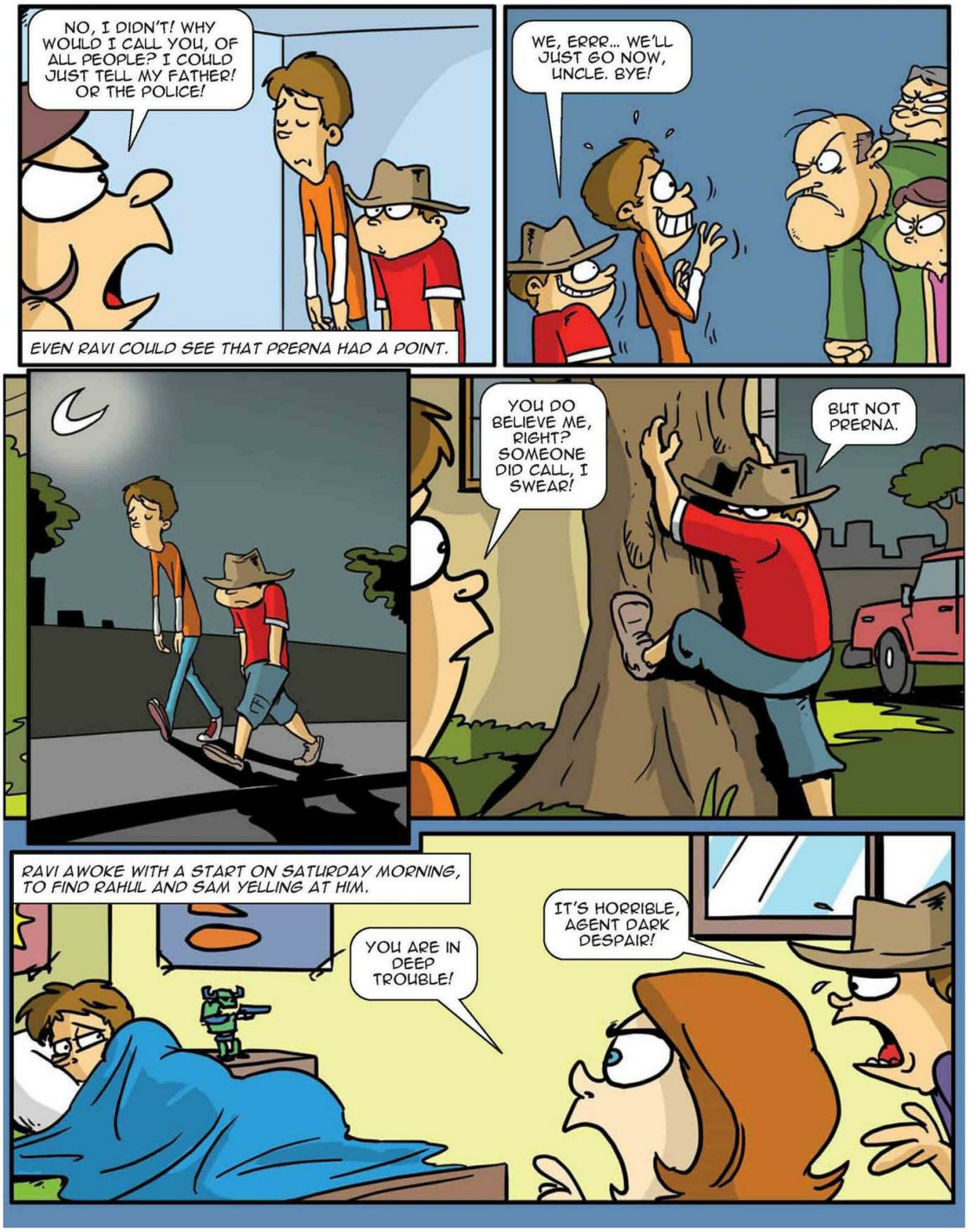

PRERNA'S HOUSE! READY, AGENT ARMOURED RODENT?
READY, AGENT GIANT HEAD.
LET'S GO!
THE LIGHTS ARE OFF. ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULD...
HEAR THAT?
TINKLE! TINKLE!
SOUNDS LIKE THE TINKLING OF JEWELLERY! THE THIEF MUST BE STEALING JEWELLERY!

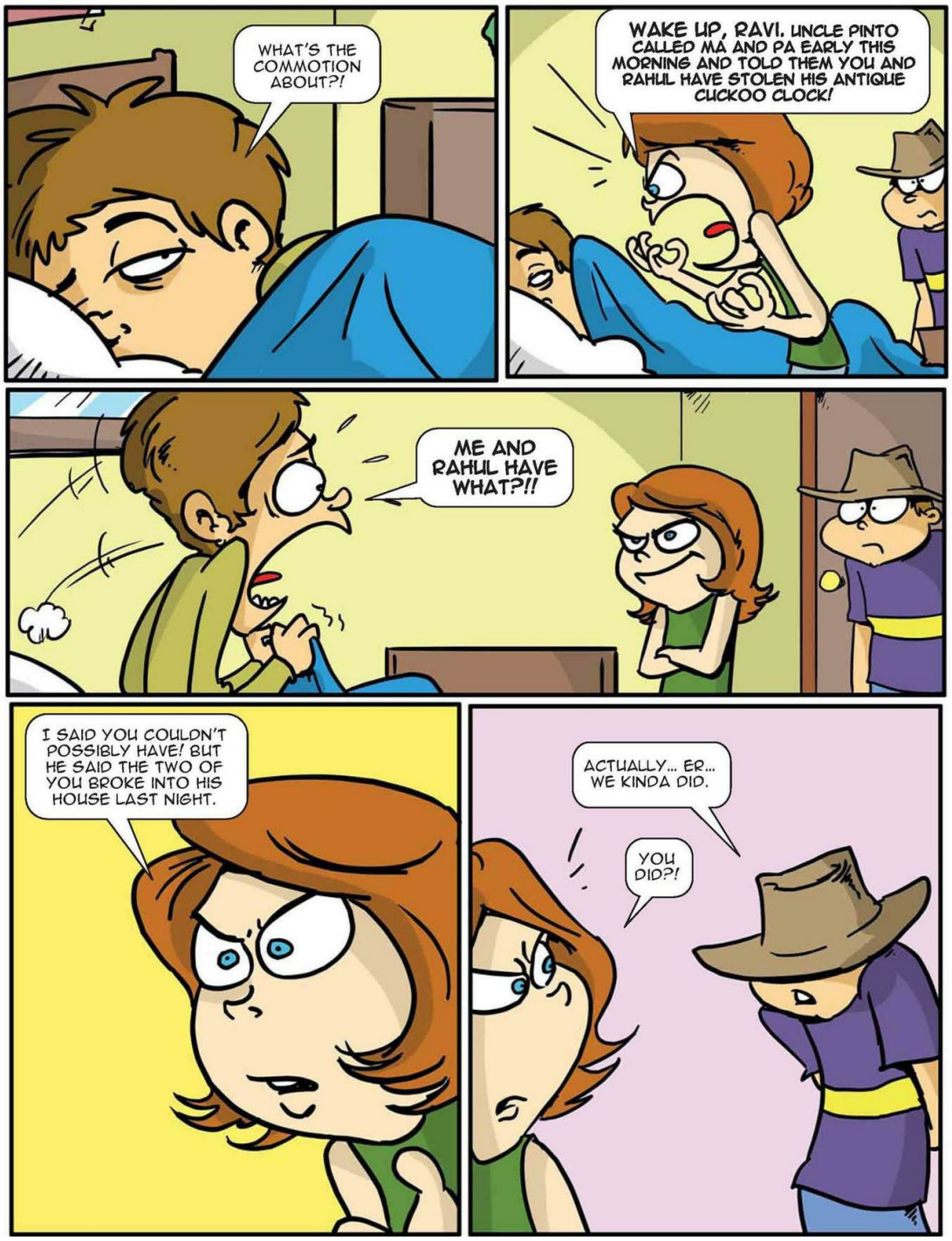
THIS WINDOW'S OPEN! THAT'S HOW THE THIEF GOT IN!
TINKLE! TINKLE!
ERM RAVI...?
...I DON'T THINK THERE IS A THIEF.
TINKLE! TINKLE!
BUT RAVI WASN'T LISTENING.
CHARGE!
I'D BETTER GO SEE WHAT RAVI'S UP TO.
INSIDE THE HOUSE, RAVI WAS FEELING HIS WAY AROUND IN THE DARK.
WHERE ARE YOU, THIEF GUY?

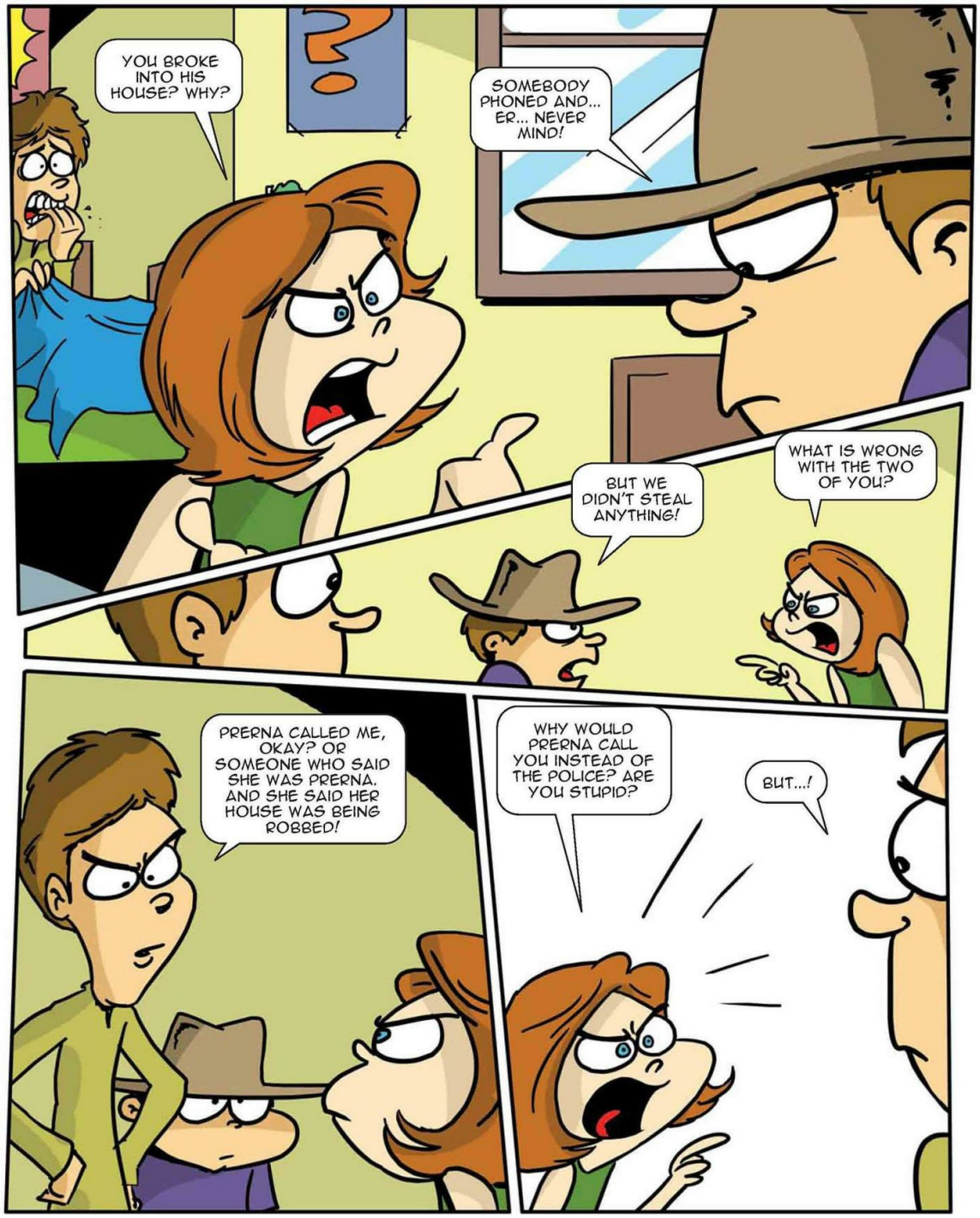
AHA!
DID I HEAR A FOOTSTEP? MUST BE THE THIEF!
COME ON, COME ON!

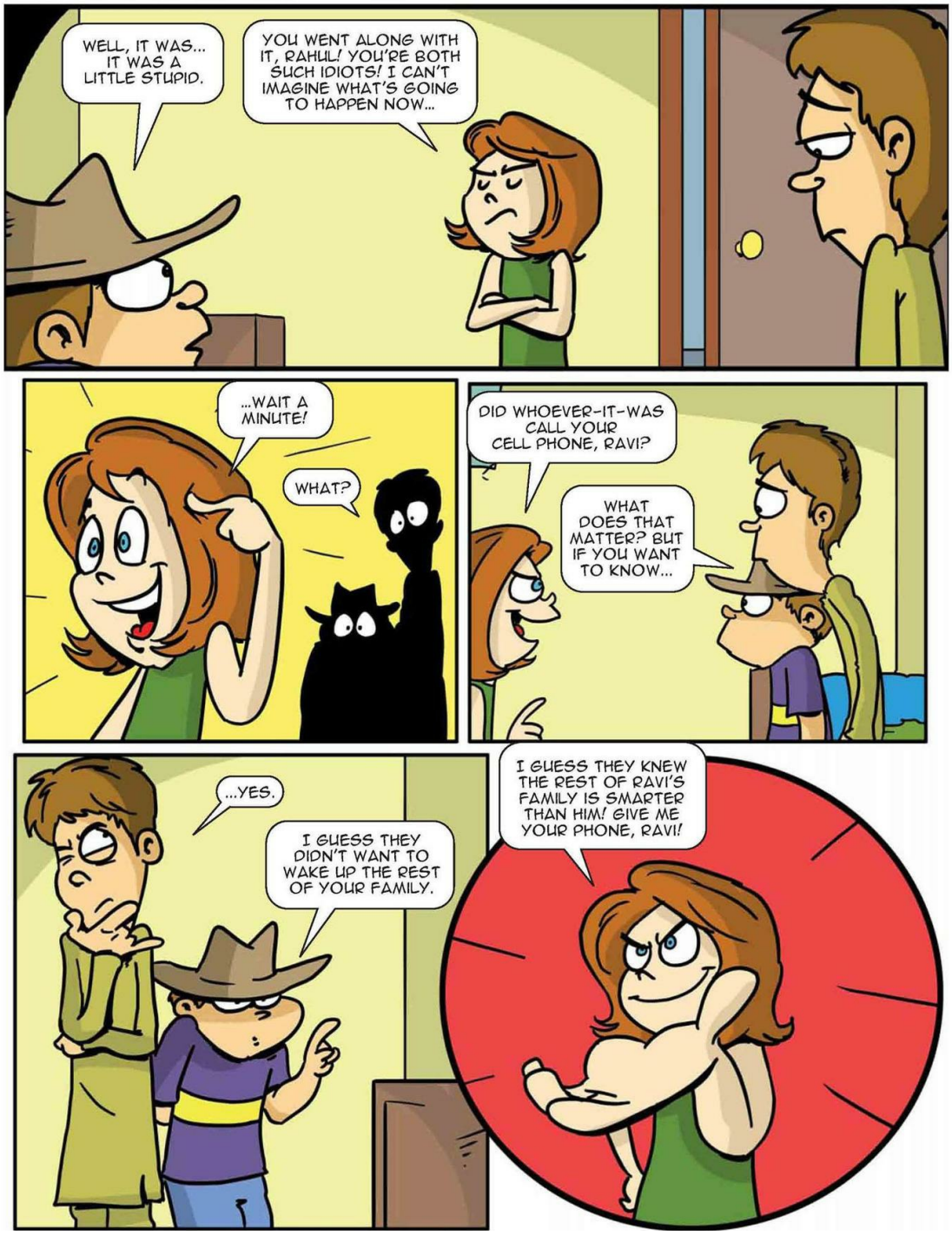
WHAM!
AHA!
I'M DONE FOR!
HELP! THE THIEF HAS ME!
WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON HERE?
CLICK
RAHUL AND RAVI BLINKED AS BRIGHT LIGHT FLOODED THE ROOM.
YOU!
YOU!
RAVI!
PA, THIS IS THE MEAN BOY FROM SCHOOL I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT!


SO YOU'RE THIEVES TOO?
NO, WE'RE NOT!
WE ONLY CAME BECAUSE YOU CALLED US!
CALLED YOU! WHO?
PRERNA CALLED US!
TO... ER... CATCH THE THIEVES...
ME?!
THE TWO OF YOU ARE THE ONLY THIEVES I CAN SEE.
YOU...!
QUIET! THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH. EXPLAIN YOURSELVES.
WE'RE SORRY, UNCLE.
NO, WE AREN'T! THIS IS HER FAULT. WE ONLY CAME HERE BECAUSE SHE CALLED US!
I CALLED YOU!
BUT YOU DID! YOU CALLED AND SAID THERE WAS A THIEF IN YOUR HOUSE!

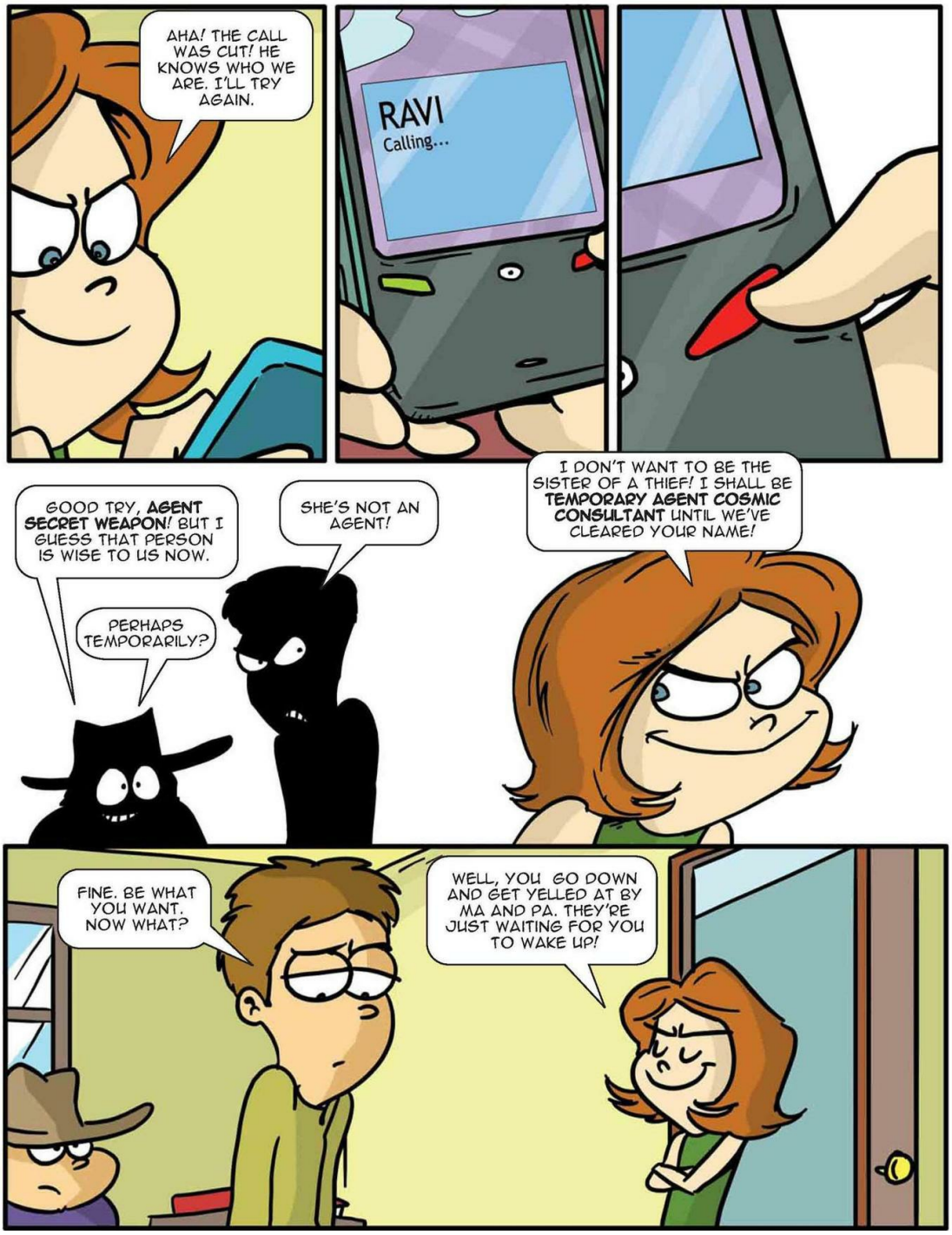

NO, I DIDN'T! WHY WOULD I CALL YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE? I COULD JUST TELL MY FATHER! OR THE POLICE!
EVEN RAVI COULD SEE THAT PRERNA HAD A POINT.
WE, ERRR... WE'LL JUST GO NOW, UNCLE. BYE!
YOU DO BELIEVE ME, RIGHT? SOMEONE DID CALL, I SWEAR!
BUT NOT PRERNA.
RAVI AWOKE WITH A START ON SATURDAY MORNING, TO FIND RAHUL AND SAM YELLING AT HIM.
YOU ARE IN DEEP TROUBLE!
IT'S HORRIBLE, AGENT DARK DESPAIR!

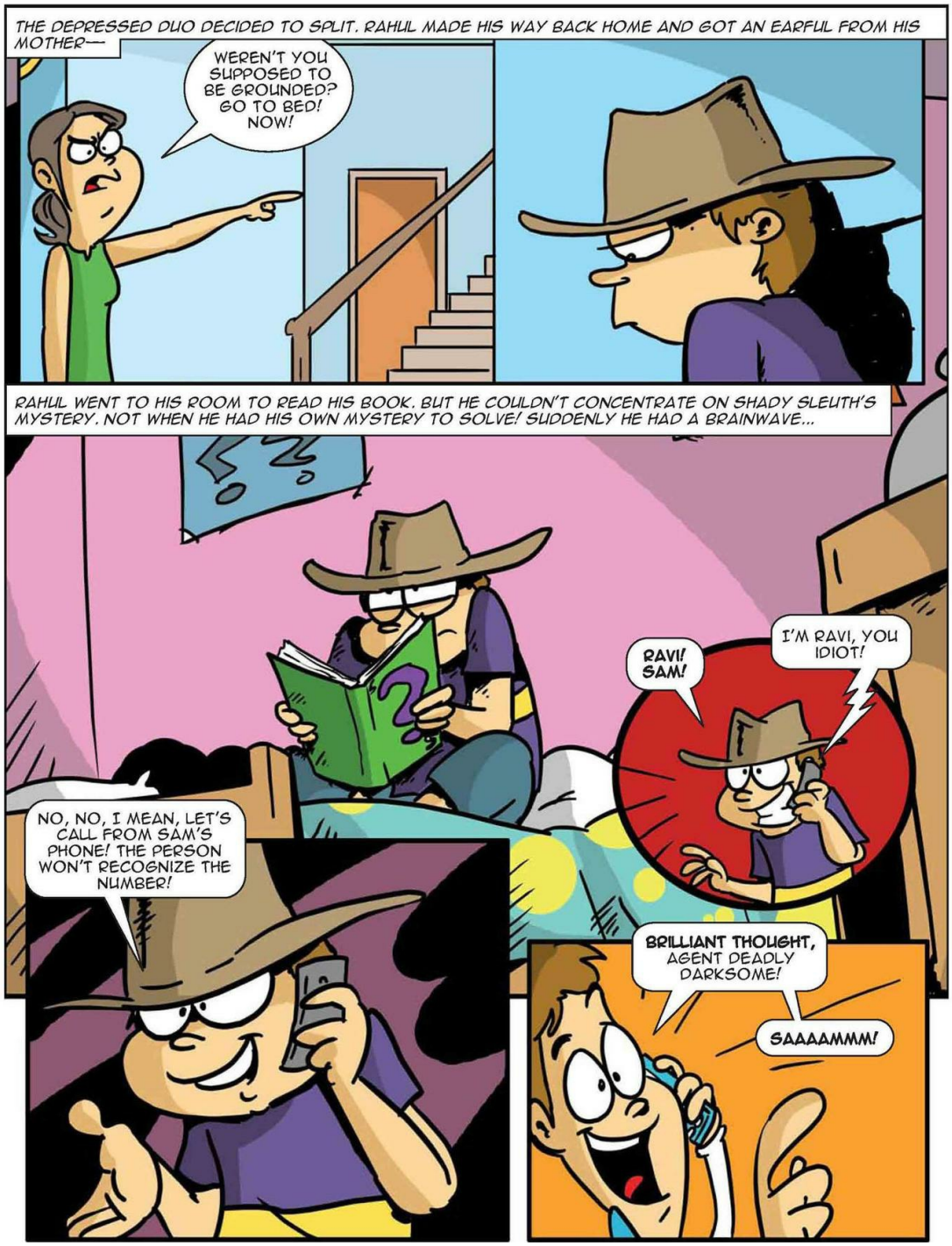

WHAT'S THE COMMOTION ABOUT?!
WAKE UP, RAVI. UNCLE PINTO CALLED MA AND PA EARLY THIS MORNING AND TOLD THEM YOU AND RAHUL HAVE STOLEN HIS ANTIQUE CUCKOO CLOCK!
ME AND RAHUL HAVE WHAT?!!
I SAID YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE! BUT HE SAID THE TWO OF YOU BROKE INTO HIS HOUSE LAST NIGHT.
ACTUALLY... ER... WE KINDA DID.
YOU DID?!

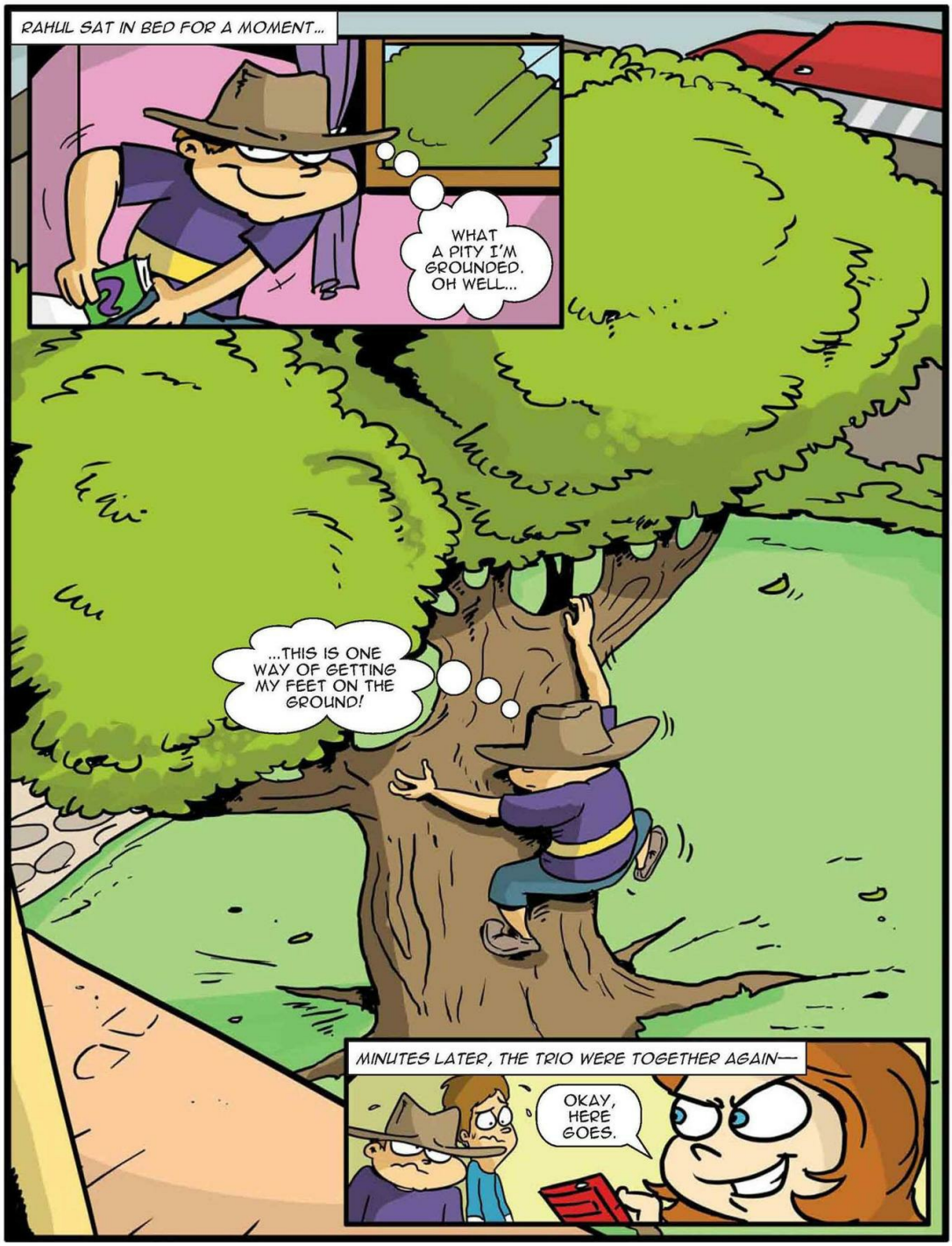

YOU BROKE INTO HIS HOUSE? WHY?
SOMEBODY PHONED AND... ER... NEVER MIND!
BUT WE DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE TWO OF YOU?
PRERNA CALLED ME, OKAY? OR SOMEONE WHO SAID SHE WAS PRERNA. AND SHE SAID HER HOUSE WAS BEING ROBBED!
WHY WOULD PRERNA CALL YOU INSTEAD OF THE POLICE? ARE YOU STUPID?
BUT...!


WELL, IT WAS... IT WAS A LITTLE STUPID.
YOU WENT ALONG WITH IT, RAHUL! YOU'RE BOTH SUCH IDIOTS! I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW...
...WAIT A MINUTE!
WHAT?
DID WHOEVER-IT-WAS CALL YOUR CELL PHONE, RAVI?
WHAT DOES THAT MATTER? BUT IF YOU WANT TO KNOW...
...YES.
I GUESS THEY DIDN'T WANT TO WAKE UP THE REST OF YOUR FAMILY.
I GUESS THEY KNEW THE REST OF RAVI'S FAMILY IS SMARTER THAN HIM! GIVE ME YOUR PHONE, RAVI!

HERE!
NOW LET'S SEE WHO CALLED, AND WHEN!
YES, UNKNOWN CALL AT 11.14 P.M. LET'S RETURN THE CALL!
CALL REGISTER
RECEIVED CALLS
Unknown
13 Dec 11:14 PM
Rahul
13 Dec 01:22 PM
Mom
12 Dec 10:19 AM
THE UNKNOWN CALLER DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE THE CALL!
RAVI
Calling...


AHA! THE CALL WAS CUT! HE KNOWS WHO WE ARE. I'LL TRY AGAIN.
RAVI
Calling...
GOOD TRY, **AGENT SECRET WEAPON**! BUT I GUESS THAT PERSON IS WISE TO US NOW.
PERHAPS TEMPORARILY?
SHE'S NOT AN AGENT!
I DON'T WANT TO BE THE SISTER OF A THIEF! I SHALL BE **TEMPORARY AGENT COSMIC CONSULTANT** UNTIL WE'VE CLEARED YOUR NAME!
FINE. BE WHAT YOU WANT. NOW WHAT?
WELL, YOU GO DOWN AND GET YELLED AT BY MA AND PA. THEY'RE JUST WAITING FOR YOU TO WAKE UP!


THE DEPRESSED DUO DECIDED TO SPLIT. RAHUL MADE HIS WAY BACK HOME AND GOT AN EARFUL FROM HIS MOTHER—
WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE GROUNDED? GO TO BED! NOW!
RAHUL WENT TO HIS ROOM TO READ HIS BOOK. BUT HE COULDN'T CONCENTRATE ON SHADY SLEUTH'S MYSTERY. NOT WHEN HE HAD HIS OWN MYSTERY TO SOLVE! SUDDENLY HE HAD A BRAINWAVE...
RAVI! SAM!
I'M RAVI, YOU IDIOT!
NO, NO, I MEAN, LET'S CALL FROM SAM'S PHONE! THE PERSON WON'T RECOGNIZE THE NUMBER!
BRILLIANT THOUGHT, AGENT DEADLY DARKSOME!
SAAAAMMM!

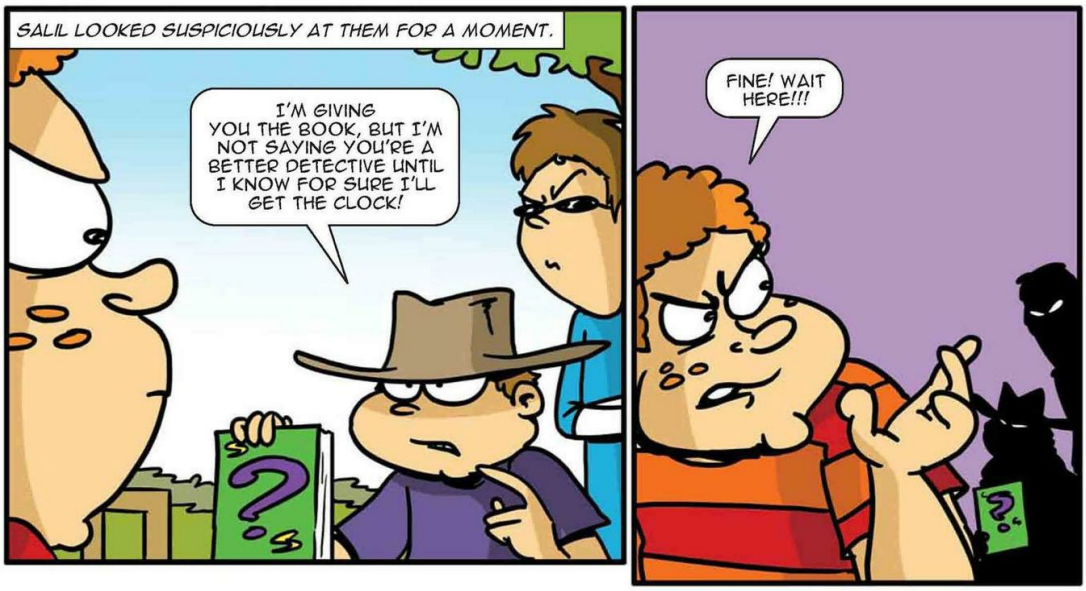

RAHUL SAT IN BED FOR A MOMENT...
WHAT A PITY I'M GROUNDED. OH WELL...
...THIS IS ONE WAY OF GETTING MY FEET ON THE GROUND!
MINUTES LATER, THE TRIO WERE TOGETHER AGAIN—
OKAY, HERE GOES.

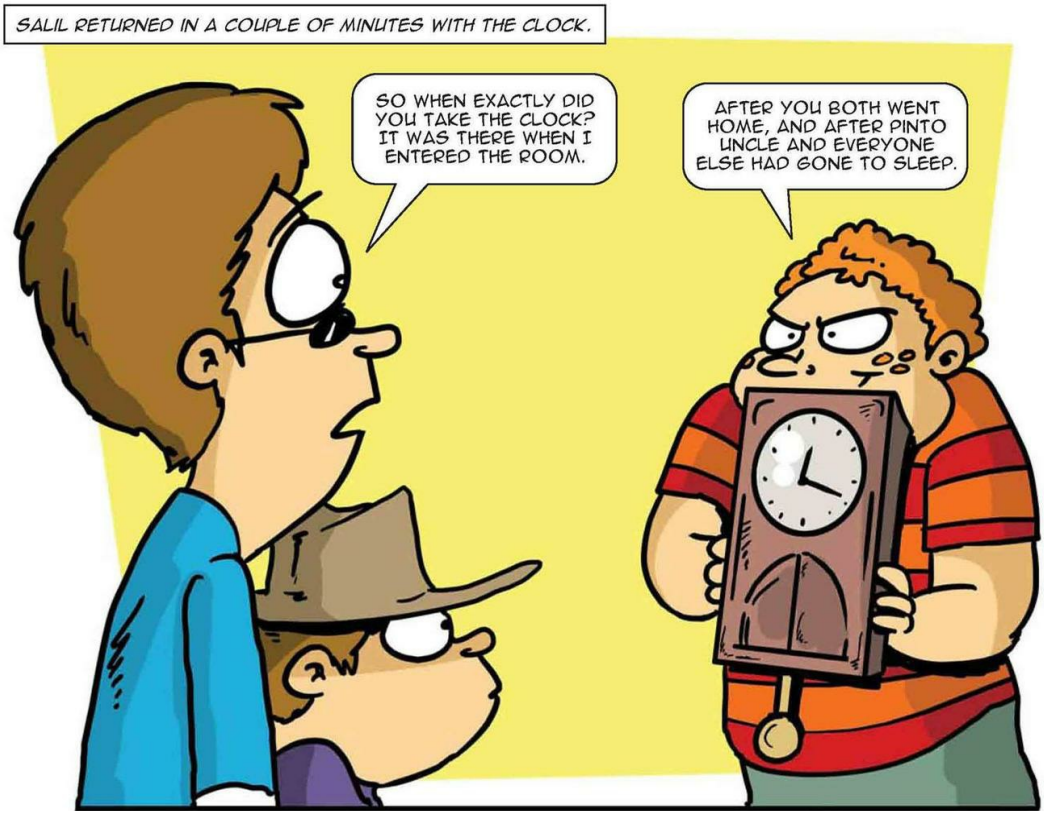
UNKNOWN NUMBER
Calling...
HELLO.
Speaker ON
HELLO, CAN I SPEAK WITH... ERM... VISHWESH?
WHO'S VISHWESH?
I KNOW THAT VOICE! IT'S SALIL!

THAT HORRIBLE, NASTY LITTLE...
...SHHH. LET SAM FINISH.
ERR... SORRY. BAD CONNECTION. I MEANT RAHUL! CAN I SPEAK TO RAHUL?
THERE IS MOST CERTAINLY NO RAHUL HERE! WRONG NUMBER!
GOODBYE!
HE GAVE HIMSELF AWAY! THE FOOL!

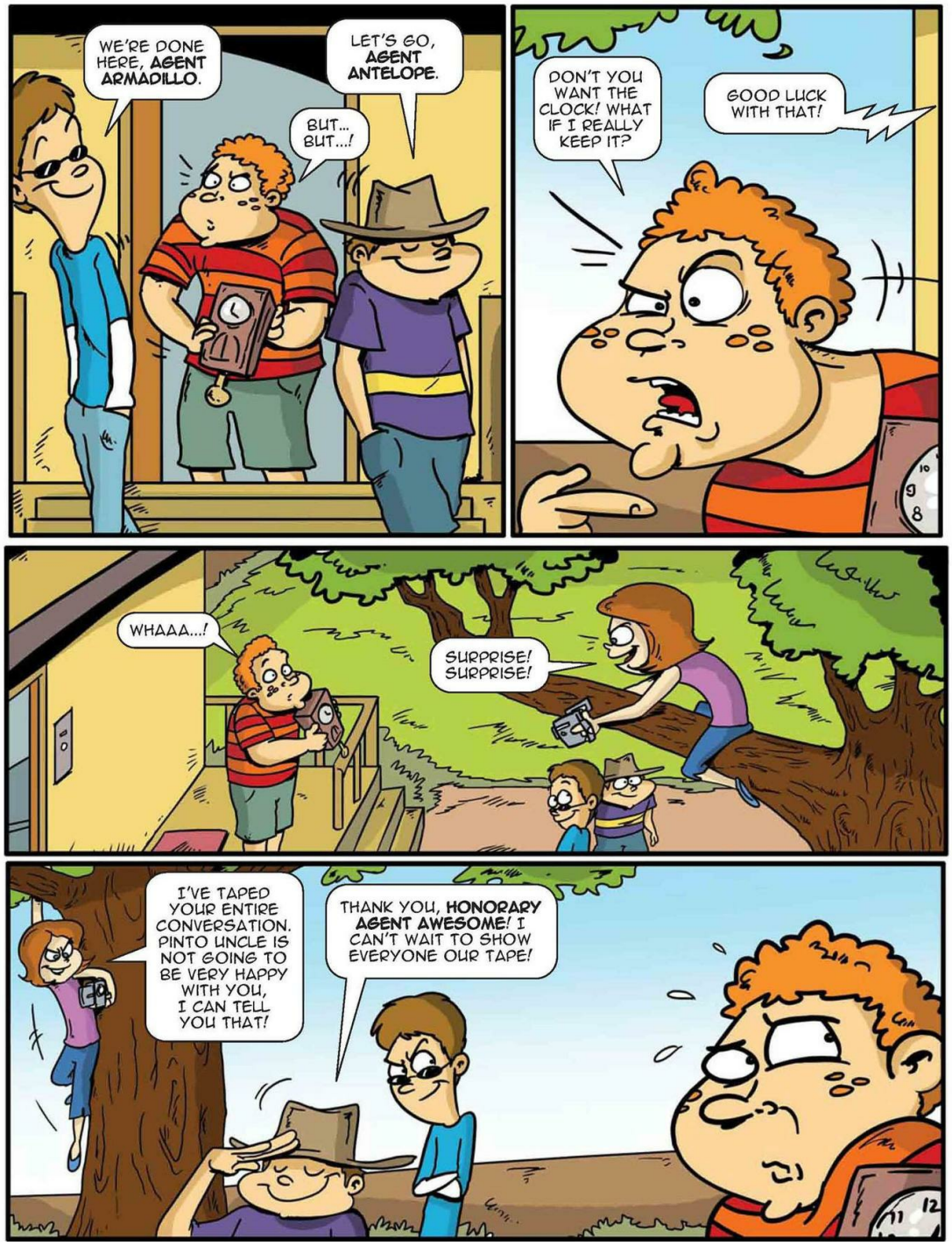
SHALL I CALL HIM AGAIN AND ASK FOR ANOTHER FAKE PERSON? SAY A SPATIKA?
FOCUS, **AGENT OCCASIONAL**, WE HAVE TO HAVE HIM CAUGHT WITH THE CUCKOO CLOCK!
WAIT, SO SALIL SET ME UP SO HE COULD GET TO RAHUL? THE LOUSE!
YAY! LET'S GO GET HIM! WE CAN TRAP HIM IN A CANE STOOL JUST LIKE YOU HAD TRAPPED RAHUL.
ACTUALLY...
...OF COURSE!
YES, WE CAN!!

I KNOW JUST THE BAIT WE CAN USE!
YES!
LATER, AT SALIL'S HOUSE—
I'M SORRY, SALIL, HERE'S THE BOOK. CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE BACK PINTO UNCLE'S CLOCK?
SO YOU FIGURED IT OUT? FINE. BUT YOU HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I'M A BETTER DETECTIVE THAN YOU AND YOUR IDIOT PARTNER.
WHY AM I ALWAYS BEING DRAGGED INTO THIS? YOUR QUARREL IS WITH RAHUL!
SAY IT! SAY I'M THE BETTER DETECTIVE!
FINE, BUT BRING THE CLOCK OUT FIRST!


SALIL LOOKED SUSPICIOUSLY AT THEM FOR A MOMENT.
I'M GIVING YOU THE BOOK, BUT I'M NOT SAYING YOU'RE A BETTER DETECTIVE UNTIL I KNOW FOR SURE I'LL GET THE CLOCK!
FINE! WAIT HERE!!!


SALIL RETURNED IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES WITH THE CLOCK.
SO WHEN EXACTLY DID YOU TAKE THE CLOCK? IT WAS THERE WHEN I ENTERED THE ROOM.
AFTER YOU BOTH WENT HOME, AND AFTER PINTO UNCLE AND EVERYONE ELSE HAD GONE TO SLEEP.

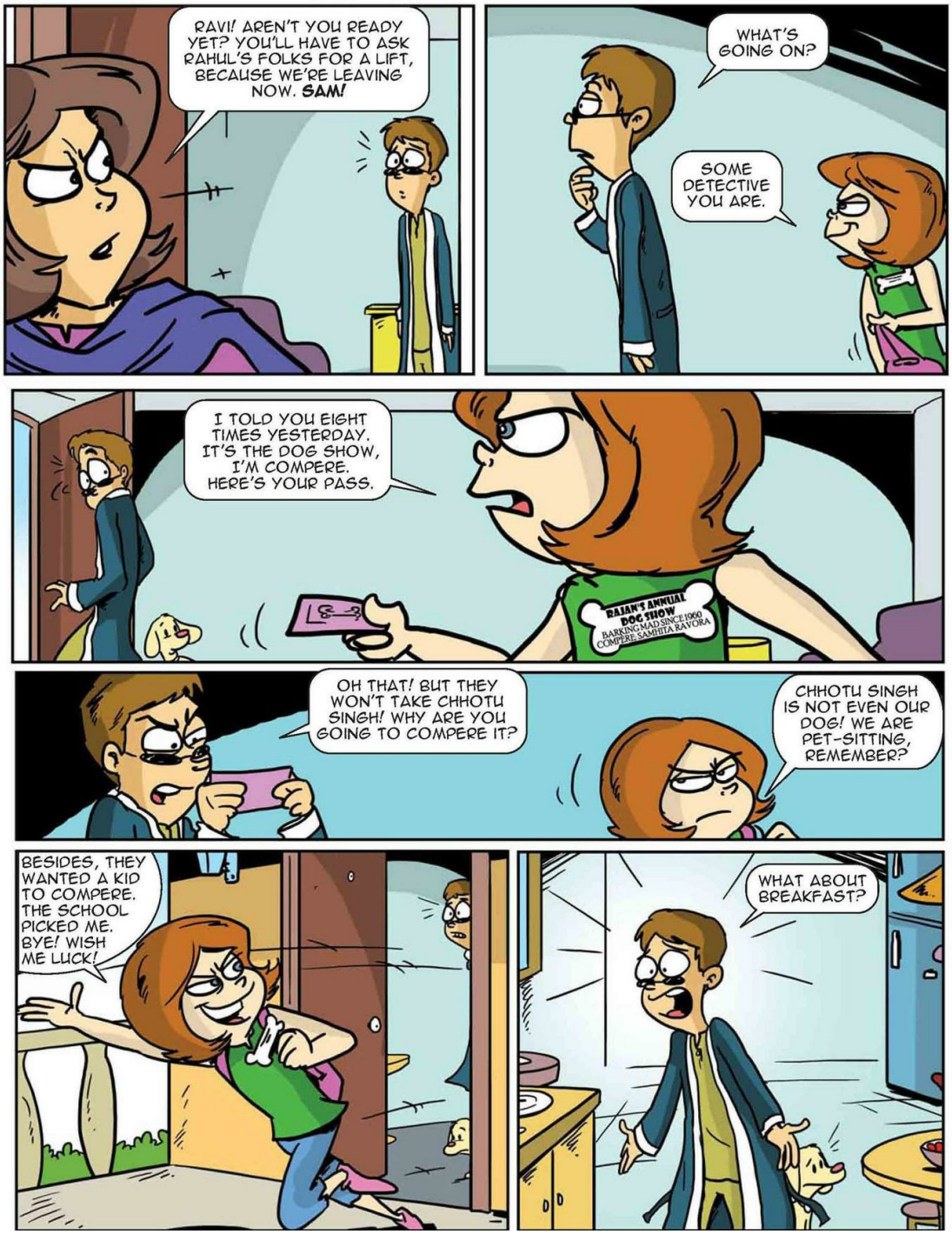
SO, YOU WERE THERE THE WHOLE TIME?
OF COURSE!
I WAS OUTSIDE, LISTENING. YOU WALKED RIGHT BY ME. YOU TWO ARE SUCH IDIOTS! SO LOUD! I HAD TO STUFF MY HANKY IN MY MOUTH TO MUFFLE MY LAUGHTER WHEN RAVI TRAPPED YOU IN THAT CANE STOOL.
YOU KNOW WHAT, SALIL, KEEP THE CLOCK!


WE'RE DONE HERE, **AGENT ARMADILLO**.
LET'S GO, **AGENT ANTELOPE**.
BUT... BUT...!
DON'T YOU WANT THE CLOCK! WHAT IF I REALLY KEEP IT?
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT!
WHAAA...!
SURPRISE! SURPRISE!
I'VE TAPED YOUR ENTIRE CONVERSATION. PINTO UNCLE IS NOT GOING TO BE VERY HAPPY WITH YOU, I CAN TELL YOU THAT!
THANK YOU, **HONORARY AGENT AWESOME**! I CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW EVERYONE OUR TAPE!

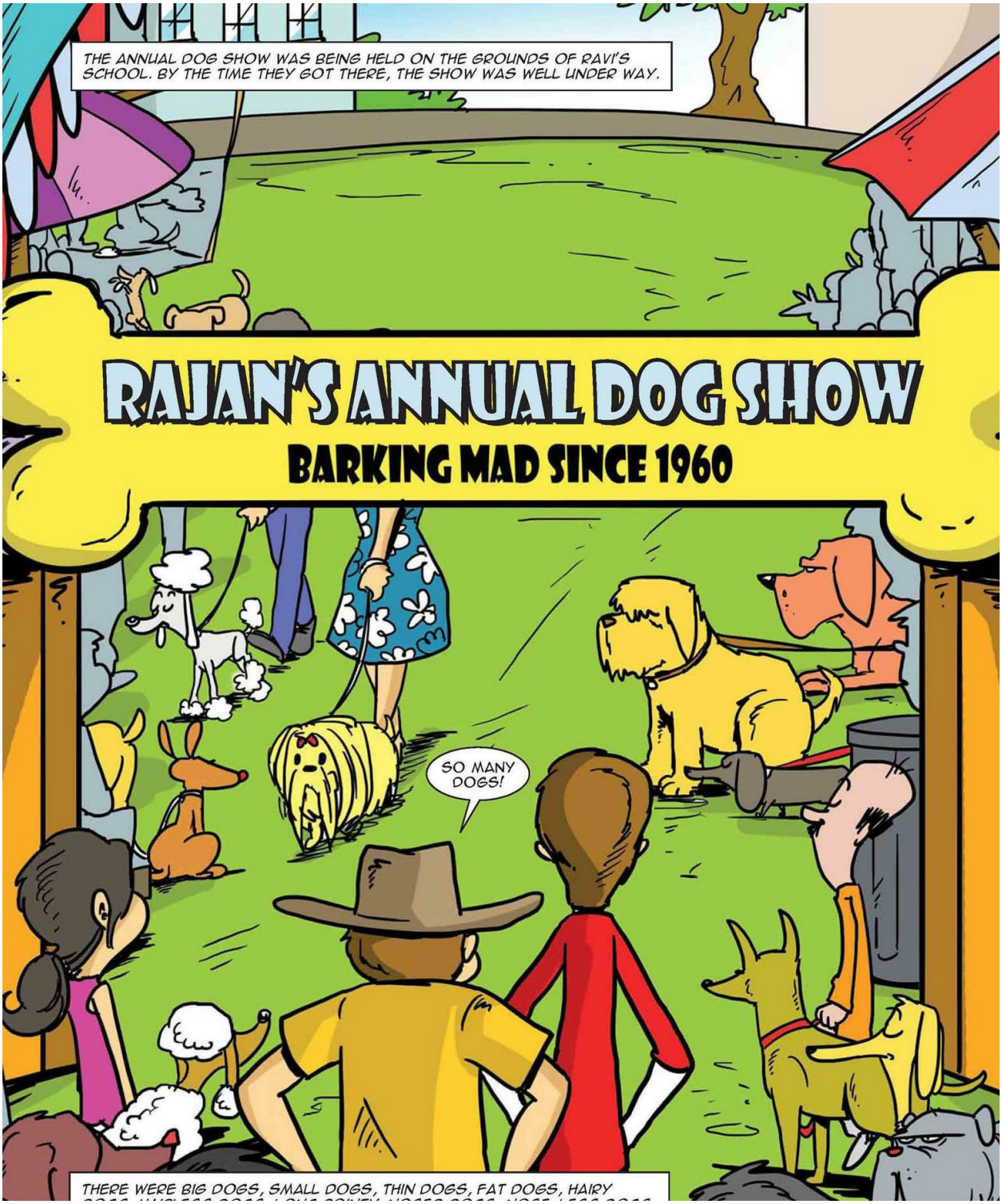
IT WAS A GLORIOUS DAY OF TRIUMPH FOR OUR HEROES. JUSTICE WAS SERVED, EVIL WAS PUNISHED AND OUR HEROES' REPUTATION RESTORED.
ERR... RAVI? RAHUL?
PRERNA!
YOU! AAAARGH.
HEEEEEELP! A NEW EVIL HAS RISEN! RUN FOR THE HILLS!
WAIT!

I ACTUALLY WANTED TO THANK THEM FOR FINDING THE CULPRIT, AND GETTING THE CLOCK BACK.
SAVE IT. AGENTS ARMADILLO AND ANTELOPE HAVE BEEN CLOCKED OUT FOR THE DAY.

THE MALTESE TERRIER
LIKE EVERY SATURDAY MORNING, RAVI WOKE UP QUITE LATE.
(YAWN)
I WONDER WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST.
I FEEL LIKE AN OMELETTE. OR SCRAMBLED EGGS. PERHAPS HOT PARATHAS...
(WHINE WHINE)
BUT WHEN HE ARRIVED IN THE KITCHEN, THERE WAS NO FOOD, ONLY CHAOS.
LET'S GO, LET'S GO!
NOTEBOOK, PENS, WATER, DOG BISCUITS.
DOG BISCUITS? I WANTED OMELETTES!

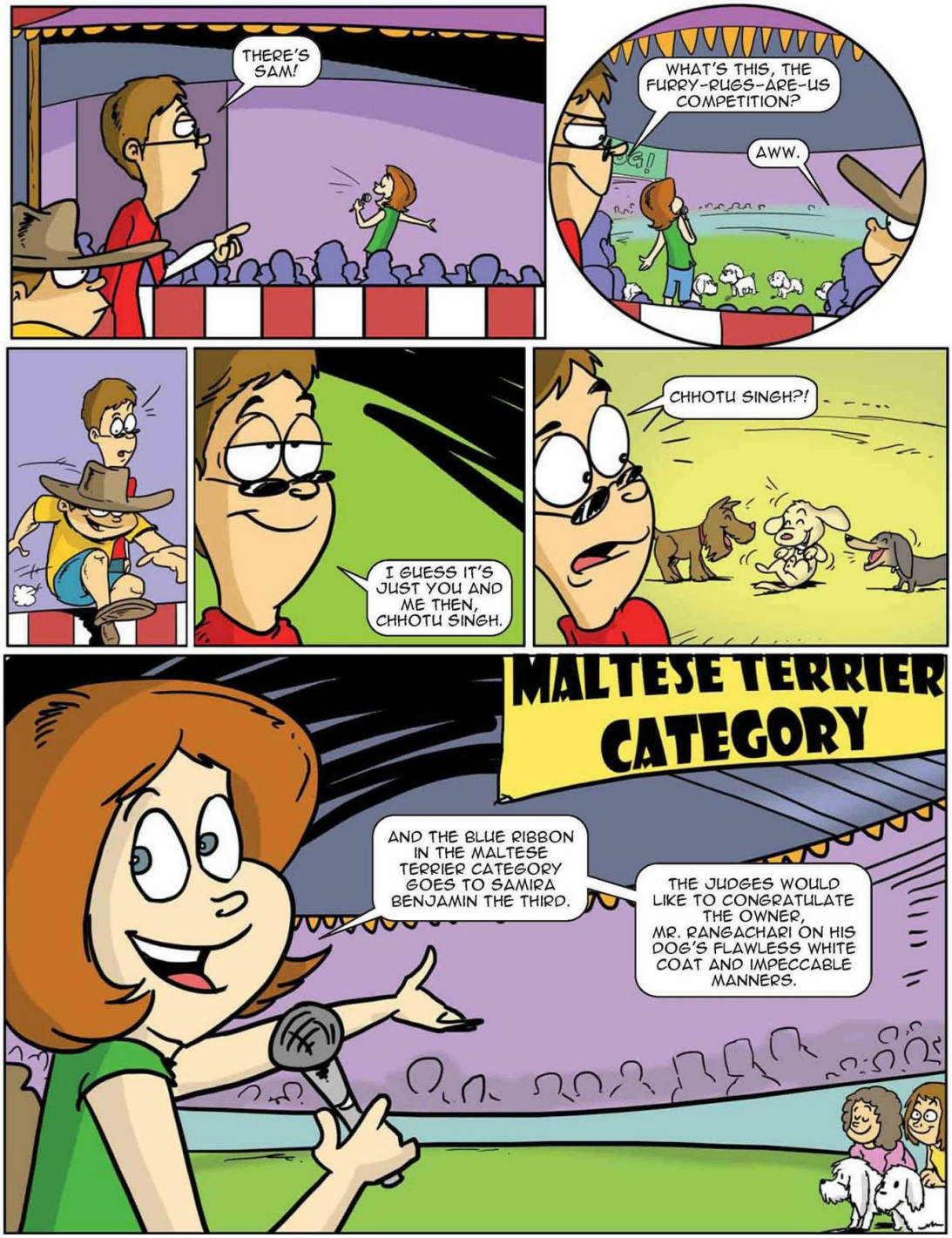

RAVI! AREN'T YOU READY YET? YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK RAHUL'S FOLKS FOR A LIFT, BECAUSE WE'RE LEAVING NOW. SAM!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
SOME DETECTIVE YOU ARE.
I TOLD YOU EIGHT TIMES YESTERDAY. IT'S THE DOG SHOW, I'M COMPERE. HERE'S YOUR PASS.
RAJAN'S ANNUAL DOG SHOW
BARKING MAD SINCE 1960
COMPERE SAMHITA RAVORA
OH THAT! BUT THEY WON'T TAKE CHHOTU SINGH! WHY ARE YOU GOING TO COMPERE IT?
CHHOTU SINGH IS NOT EVEN OUR DOG! WE ARE PET-SITTING, REMEMBER?
BESIDES, THEY WANTED A KID TO COMPERE. THE SCHOOL PICKED ME. BYE! WISH ME LUCK!
WHAT ABOUT BREAKFAST?

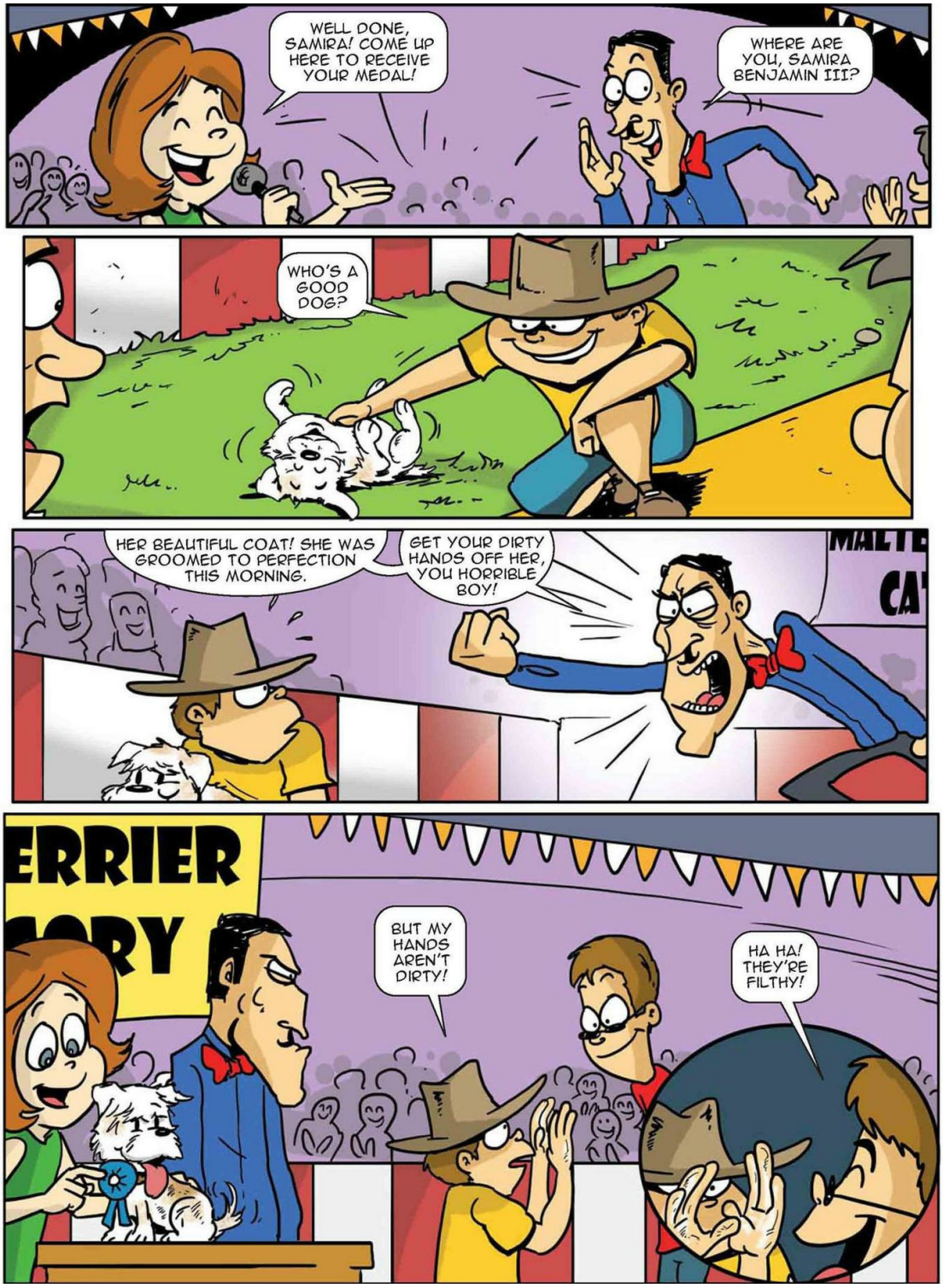
HALF AN HOUR LATER—
THAT WAS A FINE BREAKFAST, AUNTY AGENT SAVIOUR!
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY FAMILY. STARVING ME, AND ABANDONING CHHOTU SINGH FOR SOME HORRIBLE SHOW FULL OF SNOOTY PEDIGREE DOGS!
IT'S TRUE, AGENT SNIFFY NOSE. I THINK YOU'RE SMARTER THAN ALL THOSE DOGS.
WHAT DO THEY KNOW ABOUT A REAL STREET-FIGHTING DOG?
CHHOTU SINGH IS ROUGH.
CHHOTU SINGH IS TOUGH.
HE'S A REAL DETECTIVE JUST LIKE US!
IF YOU'RE DONE EATING, LET'S LEAVE.


THE ANNUAL DOG SHOW WAS BEING HELD ON THE GROUNDS OF RAVI'S SCHOOL. BY THE TIME THEY GOT THERE, THE SHOW WAS WELL UNDER WAY.
RAJAN'S ANNUAL DOG SHOW
BARKING MAD SINCE 1960
SO MANY DOGS!
THERE WERE BIG DOGS, SMALL DOGS, THIN DOGS, FAT DOGS, HAIRY

DOGS, HAIRLESS DOGS, LONG POINTY-NOSED DOGS, NOSE-LESS DOGS,
DOGS WITH LEGS LIKE SKYSCRAPERS, AND DOGS WITH NO LEGS AT ALL.

EXCUSE ME!
WHAT A LOVELY DOG!
M... MISS MALATI!
RAVI.
OH! CHEMISTRY TEACHER?
I BROKE ANOTHER TEST TUBE YESTERDAY.
COMPLETELY UNINTENTIONAL, OF COURSE.
THERE THERE, AGENT AWKWARD!


THERE'S SAM!
WHAT'S THIS, THE FURRY-RUGS-ARE-US COMPETITION?
AWW.
I GUESS IT'S JUST YOU AND ME THEN, CHHOTU SINGH.
CHHOTU SINGH?!
MALTESE TERRIER CATEGORY
AND THE BLUE RIBBON IN THE MALTESE TERRIER CATEGORY GOES TO SAMIRA BENJAMIN THE THIRD.
THE JUDGES WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE OWNER, MR. RANGACHARI ON HIS DOG'S FLAWLESS WHITE COAT AND IMPECCABLE MANNERS.


WELL DONE, SAMIRA! COME UP HERE TO RECEIVE YOUR MEDAL!
WHERE ARE YOU, SAMIRA BENJAMIN III?
WHO'S A GOOD DOG?
HER BEAUTIFUL COAT! SHE WAS GROOMED TO PERFECTION THIS MORNING.
GET YOUR DIRTY HANDS OFF HER, YOU HORRIBLE BOY!
ERRIER
BUT MY HANDS AREN'T DIRTY!
HA HA! THEY'RE FILTHY!

HE ALL-BREED BEST OF SHOW MPETITION
SOMETHING WAS WRONG, RAHUL COULD FEEL IT. BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT. SO HE FOLLOWED RAVI INTO THE ALL-BREED BEST OF SHOW COMPETITION.
WHAT BREED IS THAT DOG?
HE'S AN ERM...
HE'S A FALCON TERRIER!
SEE THE POINTY EARS? THEY ARE THE BEST BIRD HUNTERS EVER!
PETITION
PAPERS PLEASE?
PAPERS! WELL! RAHUL, GIVE HIM THE PAPERS!
I THINK I MAY HAVE LEFT THEM BEHIND...
THEN, GENTLEMEN, YOU CANNOT ENTER.
IT'S OKAY, LET HIM ENTER.
MY FATHER STARTED THIS SHOW 55 YEARS AGO, TO GIVE EVERY DOG ITS DAY. HA HA HA...
HEH HEH!

OF COURSE, YOU BOYS REALIZE YOU WON'T WIN, RIGHT? JUDGES LIKE DOGS THEY CAN JUDGE BY CHECKING OFF POINTS—HEIGHT, WEIGHT, COLOUR, EARS—THAT KIND OF THING.
AS YOU SAY, MR. RAJAN.
IT'S YOUR SHOW, NOT MINE.
SOON, THE RESULTS WERE ANNOUNCED—
THE BEST OF SHOW BLUE RIBBON GOES TO... RUDRA, THE ROTTWEILER.
MISS MALATI, PLEASE COME UP HERE TO COLLECT HIS GOLDEN CUP. THE JUDGES WERE ESPECIALLY TAKEN WITH HIS INTELLIGENCE AND ER... CHARM. HEH HEH.
GRRRR.
OH NO! THE CUP'S GONE!
A CRIME! ENTER OUR DASHING DUO!
EVIDENCE!
A CURIOUS CLUE. THE PLOT THICKENS.

DON'T FEAR, MR. RAJAN, WE WILL TRACK YOUR CRIMINAL DOWN SOON.
EXCUSE US, WE MUST CONFER. COME ON, AGENT MYSTERIOUS NIGHT!
LET US GO FORTH AND DETECT, AGENT DARK TROUBLE.
I APOLOGIZE.
THE CUP WAS INSURED, SO IT WILL BE REPLACED. BUT I AM AFRAID NO NEW CUP WILL REPLACE THE ORIGINAL 51-YEAR-OLD CUP. ALL THAT HISTORY... I APOLOGIZE. TO YOU, AND TO MY FATHER IN THE AUDIENCE— THIS IS HIS LEGACY.
POOR MR. RAJAN. HE WAS SO NICE TO CHHOTU SINGH. WE MUST HELP HIM AND FIND THE CUP!
CHHOTU SINGH! FIND CUP! GO ON!
BUT CHHOTU SINGH ONLY WAGGED HIS TAIL.

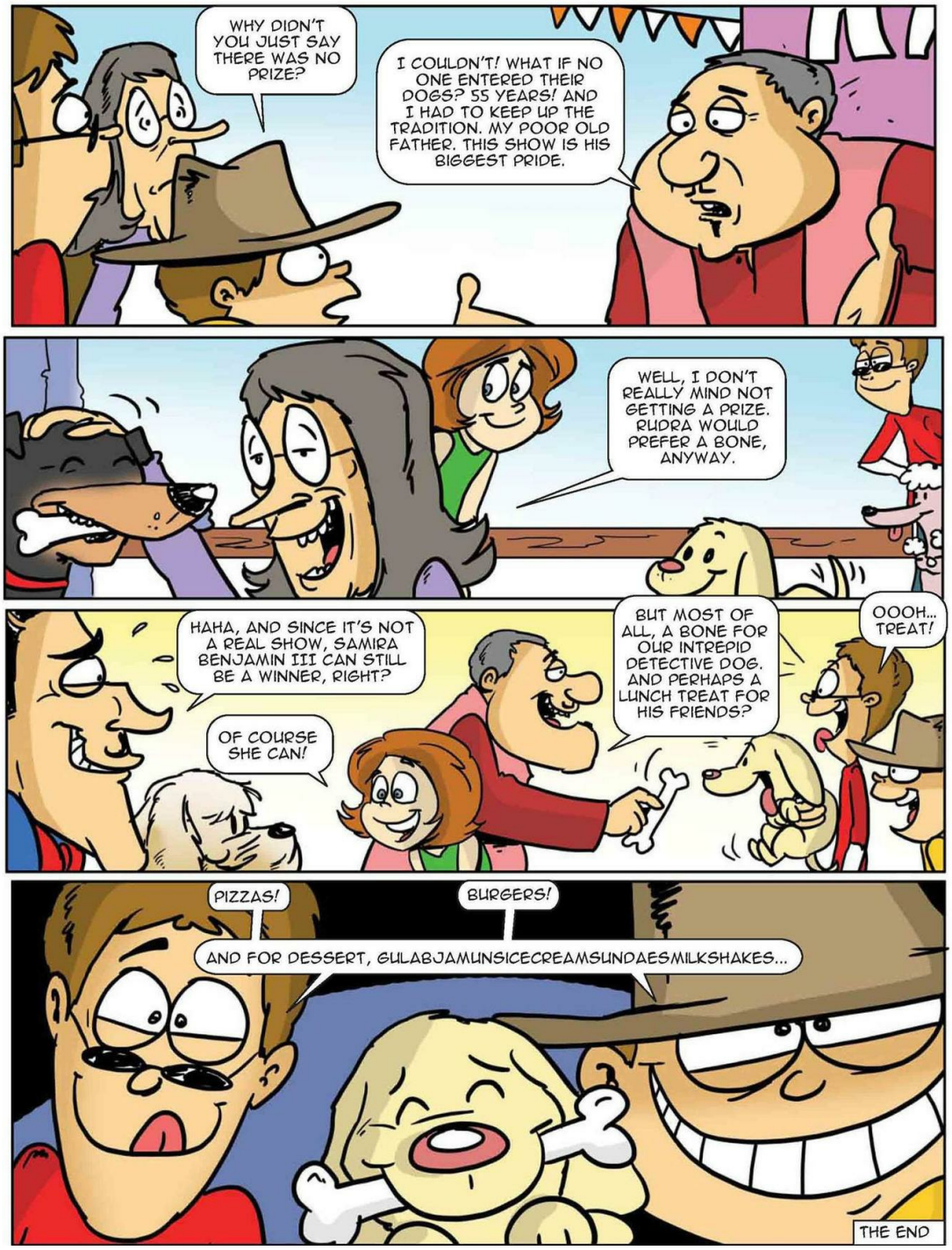
RAHUL! REMEMBER THE WHITE STUFF ON YOUR HANDS? THE SAME THING'S IN THE BOX WITH THE MISSING CUP. SUSPICIOUS, HUH?
I DIDN'T STEAL THE CUP, AGENT DIMWIT!
NO-NO, BUT YOU SHOOK HANDS WITH MISS MALATI. AND THEN POOFT! WHITE STUFF ON YOUR HANDS. AND IN THE BOX.
SHE DOES HAVE ACCESS TO A LAB.
HMM. SHE COULD MELT THE CUP DOWN AND SELL IT!
YOU STOLE IT!
GRRR.
GOOD DOGGY WOGGY.

BUT SHE WON THE CUP.
DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF?
MY HAND WAS COVERED IN WHITE DUST WHEN I SHOOK YOURS! AND...
THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH!
RAHUL, RAVI, APOLOGIZE NOW!
ERM. WELL, PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T?
WE'LL GIVE YOU THE STAGE NOW, HEH HEH.
SHAME-FACED, THE BOYS WALKED AWAY.
WAIT!
THE WHITE DUST YOU MENTIONED, WHEN DID YOU NOTICE IT?

THAT MAN YELLED AT ME FOR MAKING HIS MALTESE TERRIER DIRTY...
HIS **WHITE** TERRIER.
AND THERE WAS GRASS THERE.
THERE WAS! I HAVE GREEN STAINS ON MY JEANS!
BUT THE DOG'S FUR HAD BROWN MARKS!
AND IT WAS BROWN BECAUSE ITS WHITE COAT CAME OFF!
STAGE
COME HERE, SAMIRA BENJAMIN III.

HERE, SB III.

HERE.
BUT SHE'S NOT A PROPER SHOW MALTESE TERRIER AT ALL.
HER COAT IS BROWNISH WHITE. AND THE JUDGING STANDARDS ARE VERY STRICT.
POOR THINGS. WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING BROWN?
BUT WHERE'S THE CUP?
CHHOTU SINGH, RUDRA, WHERE'S THE CUP?
HUH?
SORRY, DOGS, I DON'T HAVE IT. I PAWNED IT. THIS DOG SHOW IS VERY EXPENSIVE, SO I SOLD THE OLD CUP SO WE COULD AFFORD TO SET UP THIS TIME'S SHOW.


WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY THERE WAS NO PRIZE?
I COULDN'T! WHAT IF NO ONE ENTERED THEIR DOGS? 55 YEARS! AND I HAD TO KEEP UP THE TRADITION. MY POOR OLD FATHER. THIS SHOW IS HIS BIGGEST PRIDE.
WELL, I DON'T REALLY MIND NOT GETTING A PRIZE. RUDRA WOULD PREFER A BONE, ANYWAY.
HAHA, AND SINCE IT'S NOT A REAL SHOW, SAMIRA BENJAMIN III CAN STILL BE A WINNER, RIGHT?
OF COURSE SHE CAN!
BUT MOST OF ALL, A BONE FOR OUR INTREPID DETECTIVE DOG. AND PERHAPS A LUNCH TREAT FOR HIS FRIENDS?
OOOH... TREAT!
PIZZAS!
BURGERS!
AND FOR DESSERT, GULABJAMUNSICECREAMSUNDAESMILKSHAKES...
THE END

MADNESS AT MIDNIGHT

A PHONE CALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. A ROBBERY IN A SCHOOLMATE'S HOUSE. IT'S THE PERFECT CASE FOR THE DEFECTIVE DETECTIVES... TO BUNGLE UP. AND BOY, DO THEY DO IT ROYALLY! SO MUCH SO THAT THEY ARE BRANDED 'THIEVES' AND LEFT TO THE MERCY OF THEIR ETERNAL RIVAL, SAMHITA. HAS IT REALLY COME TO THIS? CAN THE DETECTIVE DUO PROVE THEIR INNOCENCE AND RESTORE THEIR PRIDE?

+ BONUS STORY

THE MALTESE TERRIER

WHEN THE DEFECTIVE DETECTIVES TAKE ON A DOG SHOW, THINGS GET BARKING MAD! THE PRIZE CUP GOES MISSING AND ALL THE TRACKING SKILLS OF THE DUO LEAD TO DEAD ENDS. CAN THEY STILL STEAL THE SHOW?